

FISHERIES, WILLOW CREEK, BENTON LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

MONTANA

January 1 - April 30, 1980

REFUGE PERSONNEL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Charlie, Montana

PISIKUN, WILLOW CREEK, BENSON LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Narrative Report
January 1 - April 30, 1950

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I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions

Weather reports mailed each month from the office of the County Agent in Choteau are the only source of weather data available that might apply to the Pishkun, Willow Creek and Benton Lake areas. Conditions for the period are summarized below:

1950

	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Prec.</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
January	4	.45	51	-41
February	-	---	65	-7
March	9	1.07	56	-22
April	14	1.04	71	2
Totals	27	2.36		

Average for Preceding Five Years

	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Prec.</u>	<u>Max. Temp.</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
January	4.1	.50	54	-15
February	4.6	.54	56	-18
March	5.6	.36	62	-12
April	1.0	.23	75	11

B. Water Conditions

Gauge readings for Pishkun and Willow Creek reservoirs are received each month from the office of the Greenfields Irrigation District in Fairfield. There is not water in Benton Lake.

Water elevation changes in Pishkun and Willow Creek reservoirs are summarized below:

Pishkun

<u>Crest of Spillway - 4374</u>			<u>Bottom of Outlet - 4342</u>			
<u>End of:</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	
Jan.	4362.0	4359.8	4363.3	4360.5	4364.7	4360.7
Feb.	4361.6	4359.6	4363.5	4360.5	4364.8	4360.5
March	4361.7	4359.4	4363.5	4360.5	4364.8	4360.5
April	4366.1	4366.7	4363.3	4360.5	4365.5	4360.3

Willow Creek

<u>Crest of Spillway - 4142</u>			<u>Bottom of Outlet - 4085</u>			
<u>End of:</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	
Jan.	4106.9	4131.1	4128.7	4126.0	4123.3	4123.7
Feb.	4108.4	4131.5	4130.0	4126.3	4123.6	4124.1
March	4110.9	4132.5	4130.4	4128.5	4124.1	4124.4
April	4115.9	4133.5	4132.0	4130.2	4124.8	4133.0

II. WILDLIFE

These areas were not visited during the period, and no first hand comments concerning wildlife can be made at this time.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

No development nor maintenance work has been done this period.

IV. ECONOMIC USE OF THE REFUGES

No Fish and Wildlife Service economic use programs are carried on at Pishkun or Willow Creek Refuges.

At Benton Lake one agriculture permit and three grazing permits extended into the January-April period. These special

use activities for the period are summarized below:

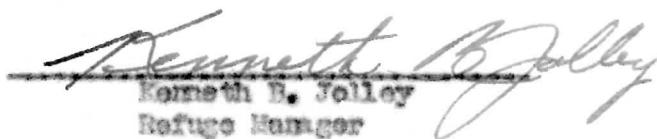
Agriculture Permits

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Acreage Utilized</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Rate</u>
O. M. Olson	40	3/1/50 - 2/28/51	.50 acre

Cruising Permits

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Acreage Utilized</u>	<u>A.U.M.</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Rate</u>
O. M. Olson	10,420	38	11/15/49 - 2/28/50	.50 A.U.M
John Hinkle	1,100	660	11/1/49 - 10/31/50	.10 acre
Charles Prinzing	230	168	9/1/49 - 2/28/50	.10 acre

Respectfully Submitted:



Kenneth R. Jolley
Refuge Manager

Completed May 7, 1950

Approved _____
Regional Director